

REMARKS

The Office Action of March 6, 2008 has been reviewed and the comments of the Examiner have been considered. Applicants thank the Examiner for the allowance of claims 4, 6, 7, 11, 27-51, 55-57, 136 and 138-153. According to the *Ex Parte* Quayle action, the application is in condition for allowance except for claims 2, 3, 5, 8-10, 12-26, 52-54 and 58-134, which are directed to non-elected inventions. As indicated above, claims 2, 3, 5, 8-10, 12-26, 52-54 and 58-134 have been canceled in response to the action. Applicants reserve the right to file the canceled subject matter in this or future applications.

Presented for the Examiner's consideration are newly added claims 154-160. Each of the claims is supported by the application as originally filed, for example, at page 16, para. [0062] and page 30, para. [00110] to page 31, para. [00114], FIGS. 3A-3F. Accordingly, newly added claims 154-160 are readable on the elected species of FIGS. 3A-3F. Claims 4, 6, 7, 11, 27-51, 55-57, 136 and 138-160 are now pending.

Newly added claims 158 and 160 recite subject matter similar to that of claims in currently pending U.S. Patent Publication No. 2007/0187116 (the '116 Publication), filed on February 15, 2006, having Application No. 11/354,644, and which is directed to a "Dry Sprinkler Assembly." More specifically, newly added claims 158 and 160 of the instant application respectively recite subject matter similar to that of claims 1 and 16 of the '116 Publication, as they were amended in a March 13, 2008 amendment response. The '116 Publication is cited in the accompanying Information Disclosure Statement (IDS). Portions of the '116 Publication's Image File Wrapper are attached to the IDS and specifically include the March 13, 2008 amendment response (reference B1) filed in response to a December 13 Office Action (reference B2).

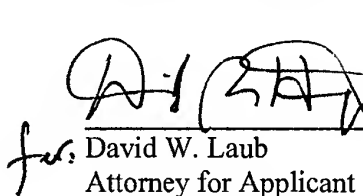
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application and the prompt allowance of at least claims 4, 6, 7, 11, 27-51, 55-57, 136 and 138-160. Should the Examiner feel that there are any issues outstanding after consideration of this response, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned to expedite prosecution of the application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 50-3840.

Respectfully submitted,

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